

FILED VIA EFS WEB
Application No.: 10/758,755
Matter No.: 97112.2617

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A process for recovering at least one metal value from a metal-bearing material, comprising the steps of:
 - a) pressure leaching a metal-bearing material with an acidic solution to yield a residue and a metal-bearing solution;
 - b) adjusting the pH of said metal-bearing solution using a chemical pH adjustment step in combination with a dilution step to form a pH-adjusted metal-bearing solution, wherein the pH of said pH-adjusted metal-bearing solution is less than about 2.2 and wherein said dilution step is performed using a ratio of said metal-bearing solution to a diluting solution of less than 1:10; and
 - c) solvent extracting at least one metal value from said pH-adjusted metal-bearing solution.
2. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1, wherein in said diluting step, the ratio by volume of said metal-bearing solution to said diluting solution ranges from about 1:4 to about 1:8.
3. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1, further comprising providing an extraction reagent for use in said step of solvent extracting said at least one metal value from said diluted metal-bearing solution.

4. (Previously presented) The process of claim 3, wherein said step of providing an extraction reagent comprises providing at least one of an aldoxime, a modified aldoxime, and an aldoxime/ketoxime mixture.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1, wherein said pressure leaching step comprises high temperature pressure leaching at a temperature from about 210°C to about 235°C.

7. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1, wherein said pressure leaching step is at superatmospheric pressure at a temperature of about 225°C in an oxygen-containing atmosphere.

8. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1, further comprising the step of comminuting said metal-bearing material prior to the step of pressure leaching.

9. (Previously presented) The process of claim 8, wherein said comminuting step comprises comminuting said metal-bearing material to a P80 of less than about 75 microns.

10. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1, further comprising the step of recovering any precious metals contained in said pressure leaching residue.

11-19 (Canceled).